

Milwaukee County

Board Chairman Lee Holloway Supervisor Peggy A. West, 12th District

Chairperson, Health and Human Needs Committee

Supervisor Elizabeth M. Coggs, 10th District

Chairperson, Finance and Audit Committee

June 23, 2008 For Immediate Release

Contact: Harold Mester, Public Information Manager 414/278-4051 or harold.mester@milwcnty.com

JOINT STATEMENT ON CROWDS AT MARCIA P. COGGS HUMAN SERVICES CENTER

Milwaukee, WI – Milwaukee County Board Chairman Lee Holloway; Supervisor Peggy A. West, Chairperson of the County Board's Health and Human Needs Committee; and Supervisor Elizabeth M. Coggs, Chairperson of the Finance and Audit Committee, released the following joint statement on this morning's large crowds at the Marcia P. Coggs Human Services Center:

"The crowds we are experiencing show the urgent need for assistance in our community as we recover from this month's flooding rains. The State of Wisconsin made the decision to offer this food voucher program and Milwaukee County is administering this assistance on the State's behalf. The number of individuals requesting food vouchers this morning exceeded our expectations by 1,000 people. It should be stressed, however, that all qualifying Milwaukee County residents applying for food vouchers will receive them if they apply by Friday. We ask for their patience in administering these food vouchers and encourage them to come back on another day if today's lines are too long.

"We commend the staff of the Coggs Center for acting quickly, bringing in additional staff and setting up overflow lines to help as many people as possible in an orderly fashion. We also thank the Milwaukee County Sheriff's Deputies and the Milwaukee Police Officers, who helped manage these crowds and maintain order, and the Milwaukee Fire Department for providing assistance to individuals who needed medical attention."